

WDFW Reply to Ecology Comment

From: Scott, Jennifer L (DFW)
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 5:25 PM
To: Reed, Catherine D. (ECY); Neet, Bryan (ECY)
Cc: Zeigler, Robert C (DFW); BobInouye@Gmail.com
Subject: FW: Ecology Comment on #11-104 Rattlesnake Creek Restoration
Attachments: ECY Comment 11-104 Rattlesnake Ck Rest..pdf

Hello Cathy and Bryan,
Thank you for reviewing the SEPA for a great project on Rattlesnake Creek!

Cathy—

As we discussed last Thursday on the phone, there won't be extensive excavation as the side channel is already there and functioning, but we will need a Corps permit to realign part of the channel to meet the elevations necessary for fish screen function and improve fish passage. All of this work will occur at the upstream portions of the side channel/irrigation ditch and some in Rattlesnake Creek to reconfigure the headgate and wingwall. Our permit will also include a hardened ford or culvert where the access road crosses the channel. We're in the process of finalizing the design; the landowner is a whiz at engineering and fabrication and he's working with WDFW's fish screen experts, habitat engineer, and construction shop to fill in the holes and double check hydraulic calculations. We will definitely keep you in the loop as the project designs develop and ask for your input before sending in the JARPA. We are already seeing pretty terrific results from the multiple beaver dams in channel and seeps popping up throughout the floodplain!

Bryan—

As I described above, we really won't have all that much disturbance with this project, so at this point, I believe we'll have much less than 1 acre of disturbed ground. Certainly the risk of runoff exists with even the smallest amount of disturbance, so we'll be installing silt fencing or compost socks to prevent runoff from entering Rattlesnake Creek and/or the side channel/ditch. I think we'll be under the threshold for a Construction Stormwater Permit, but will definitely keep you in the loop as our designs develop so we can make sure we're on the same page and implementing all of the necessary BMPs (or get the permit if required).

Again, thanks to both of you for reviewing this project! If you'd like a site visit to get a better feel for the project, please let me know and I will make arrangements with the landowner. (Eric Hartwig has been to the site as well, if you'd like to ask for his perspective on the project.) We are still working out the gory details and checking those against the available funds to make sure it will all pencil out. This project is likely to greatly improve salmonid rearing habitat in this reach, as well as increase hyporheic exchange with the mainstem. An added bonus is that the best engineers of all, beavers, have moved in and offered their assistance!

Many thanks and please don't hesitate to ask more questions! I'm thrilled to discuss this project with you more and will be sure to keep you up to date as it develops!

Jen

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